

House Committee on Retirement

Minutes of Meeting
2022 Regular Session
April 20, 2022

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier, chairman of the House Committee on Retirement, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. in Room 4, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Phillip R. DeVillier, chairman
Representative Roy Daryl Adams
Representative Tony Bacala
Representative Delisha Boyd
Representative Julie Emerson
Representative Michael "Gabe" Firment
Representative Aimee Adatto Freeman
Representative Paul Hollis
Representative John R. Illg, Jr., vice chairman
Representative Barry Ivey
Representative Patrick O. Jefferson
Representative Richard James Nelson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Phillip Eric Tarver

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joey David, legislative analyst
Jennifer Watson, committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Kalan Jenkins, clerk
Angela McKnight, sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION

House Bill No. 18 by Representative Bacala

Representative Bacala presented House Bill No. 18, which provides relative to the reemployment of retired members of the Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System.

Representative Bacala offered amendments to:

1. Delete proposed law exception from required benefit suspension for employees with more than thirty years of service.
2. Reduce the period during which suspension of benefits is required from twenty-four months to twelve months.
3. Reduce the number of hours a reemployed employee can work without a suspension in benefits from one hundred to fifty.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, and Nelson voted yea.

Ben Huxen, Municipal Police Employees' Retirement System (MPERS), 7722 Office Park Boulevard, Suite 200, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 929-7411, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 18.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 18 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 18 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, and Nelson voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 5 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Emerson in the chair.

House Bill No. 20 by Representative Illg

Representative Illg presented House Bill No. 20, which provides relative to the District Attorneys' Retirement System board of trustees and the reemployment of system retirees.

Representative Ivey offered amendments to make the Act effective June 30, 2022. Representative Ivey offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, and Nelson voted yea.

Kristi Spinosa, director, District Attorneys' Retirement System, 2525 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808, (225) 267-4824, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 20.

Representative Illg offered a motion to report House Bill No. 20 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 20 was reported with amendments by a vote of 12 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, Jefferson, and Nelson voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 10:17 a.m. The committee reconvened at 10:29 a.m.

Chairman DeVillier in the chair.

House Bill No. 22 by Representative Edmonds

Representative Edmonds presented House Bill No. 22, which provides relative to the reemployment of retired teachers in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative DeVillier offered amendments to make technical changes. Representative DeVillier offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 9 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, and Nelson voted yea.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in support of House Bill No. 22.

Mike Waguespack, legislative auditor, P.O. Box 94397, Baton Rouge, LA 70804, (225) 339-3839, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 22.

Katherine Whitney, director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6454, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 22.

Representative DeVillier offered amendments to change teachers to whom proposed law is applicable from those who returned to active service prior to Dec. 31, 2021, to those who retired

prior to that date. Representative DeVillier offered a motion to adopt the proposed amendments. Without objection, the amendments were adopted by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Freeman, Hollis, Ivey, Jefferson, and Nelson voted yea.

Representative Bacala offered a motion to report House Bill No. 22 with amendments. Without objection, House Bill No. 22 was reported with amendments by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, and Jefferson voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 in support. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

Representative Illg in the chair.

House Bill No. 26 by Representative Romero

Representative Romero presented House Bill No. 26, which provides relative to salaries of reemployed teachers in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 26. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 26 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, and Jefferson voted yea.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

House Bill No. 1021 by Representative McFarland

Representative McFarland presented House Bill No. 1021, which provides for the reemployment of retirees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana in a critical shortage position.

Representative Jefferson offered a motion to report House Bill No. 1021 favorably. Without objection, House Bill No. 1021 was reported favorably by a vote of 10 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Adams, Bacala, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Hollis, Illg, Ivey, and Jefferson voted yea.

Michael Faulk, Louisiana Association of School Superintendents, 2713 Indian Mound Boulevard, Monroe, LA 71201, (225) 229-6021, spoke in support of House Bill No. 1021.

Katherine Whitney director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6454, spoke for information only on House Bill No. 1021.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 1 in support.. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

The committee stood at ease at 11:43 a.m. The committee reconvened at 12:32 p.m.

Chairman DeVillier in the chair.

House Bill No. 30 by Representative Frieman

House Bill No. 30 provides relative to the reemployment of retired teachers in the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana.

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to voluntarily defer action on House Bill No. 30. Without objection, action on House Bill No. 30 was voluntarily deferred by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Hollis, Ivey, and Nelson voted yea.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

Teachers' Return to Work Presentation

Katherine Whitney, director, Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL), 8401 United Plaza Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, (225) 925-6454, spoke for information only on the Teachers' Return to Work Presentation, and provided a handout entitled "Return-to-Work (RTW) Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana", Exhibit A, which is included in the committee records.

Shelley Johnson, LASERS/TRSL, 13420 Parker Commons Boulevard, Suite 104, Fort Myers, FL 33912, (239) 433-5500, spoke for information only on the Teachers' Return to Work Presentation.

V. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Representative DeVillier offered a motion to adjourn. Without objection, the motion passed by a vote of 7 yeas and 0 nays. Representatives DeVillier, Boyd, Emerson, Firment, Hollis, Ivey, and Nelson voted yea.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Phillip R. DeVillier
House Committee on Retirement

Date adopted: